

For Immediate Release

Exhibition: *Holly Wong, Sacred Letters*
Opening Reception: Friday, May 16, 2025 / 6-8PM (complimentary valet)
Where: ELLIO Fine Art, 3201 Allen Parkway 180, Houston TX 77019 (Enter on Rosine St)
Note: Percentage of exhibition sales will be donated to the National MS Society
Contact: Trish Matute (Gallery Owner)/ Trish@elliofineart.com / 281.660.1832



Elixir 6, 2025, Collaged paintings and drawings on shaped aluminum dibond, 48" x 80"

ELLIO Fine Art Gallery is proud to present *Sacred Letters*, the debut solo exhibition by acclaimed artist Holly Wong at the gallery. This highly anticipated show will be on view from Friday, May 16 through June 14. The exhibition features a new series of collaged paintings on shaped aluminum and mixed media drawings on paper that explore the process of healing through a spiritual lens. Companion works in the exhibition include wall-based fiber assemblages, and a large, suspended installation of light reflective film.

The show title, *Sacred Letters*, references Holly's own deeply personal exploration of how spirituality can transform trauma into resilience. The work examines the story of Wong's own healing through the mining of her memories in the surface pattern of the work. In the process of making each piece, she delves into a visual world where she repairs psychological wounds by painting, drawing and sewing over and around them, creating wholeness from disparate parts. Wong crafts a powerful visual language of healing, inviting viewers into a world where wholeness is built from fragmentation. Collectors will find in Wong's work not only exceptional craftsmanship, but a profound narrative of renewal that speaks across cultures and experiences.

Sacred Letters is Wong's most hopeful exhibition to date, integrating her artmaking as a force of transformation both in her own life and in a deeply polarized society.

About the artist:

Holly Wong is a visual artist whose work spans collaged paintings, drawings, and fiber-based installations that explore themes of healing, resilience, and transformation. Blending non-traditional materials with sewing techniques historically rooted in women's craft, Wong creates layered, immersive works that honor innovation and cultural lineage. Her practice is deeply personal, shaped by her own history and a commitment to spiritual and emotional restoration through art.

Wong earned her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1995 and has exhibited in over 100 shows nationwide, including group exhibitions at the de Young Museum, the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Contemporary Jewish Museum. A Presidential Scholar in the Arts, she has been recognized with grants from the California Arts Council (Established Artist category), the Puffin Foundation, the George Sugarman Foundation, and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund. She lives and works in San Francisco and is represented by ELLIO Fine Art Gallery in Houston.

Additional Notes about the work:

Golden Thread 2 & 4, 2025, Gouache, graphite, candle smoke, colored pencil, and cut drafting film on paper, 16" x 20"

Wong's series of mixed media works on paper titled *Golden Thread* feature ornate paintings in gouache, layered with candle smoke and neon colored pencil, which is then overlaid with hand cut drafting film. These works are softly colored in earth and water tones, with looping energetic patterning. They emphasize the concentrated intensity of a unifying thread that weaves through the artist's visual practice and understanding of her past. The phrase "golden thread" suggests a pervasive idea or principle that connects and holds together all of the parts of something.



Elixir 5, 2025, Collaged paintings and drawings on shaped aluminum dibond, 48" x 80"

In *Elixir*, Wong uses painting and collage to explore how pain can be transformed into healing. Drawing from personal and family history, she begins each piece with imagery that symbolizes emotional and physical trauma from her past. Through layering oil paint, graphite, charcoal, and alcohol ink, Holly merges these raw beginnings with natural forms like coral,

seaweed, and flowers. These organic elements reflect the power of time, nature, and creativity to repair and reclaim. The process is both mystical and personal—a way to turn hurt into beauty and create space for renewal.



The *Sacred Letters* series involve elaborate linear patterning in graphite, layered with candle smoke which is then painted with delicately refined marks in gouache. As Wong created the swirling shapes, she was influenced by the *Book of Kells*, a 9th century illustrated manuscript of the Celtic Gospel. The shapes reminded her of letters she could not understand as they emerged from the burned background. Candle smoke in Wong's work both reveals and obfuscates meaning and personal history.



Private Collection: *Silent Music*, 2022

The largest work in the exhibition, *Spell Tapestry*, is an installation of fragmented colored film which has a kaleidoscope quality. These elements are sewn through with collaged drawings made on drafting film. Suspended as a luminous blanket across the span of the Gallery's skylight, Wong created this work as a space of contemplation and renewal for visitors. The daylight from the skylight comes through the work in a stained-glass effect, reflecting Wong's belief that personal realities are always a construct or prism. Consistent with the overall theme of resilience, the scale and ambition of the work exists to offer a healing environment in which to contemplate the exhibition as a whole.

Gallery information: ELLIO Fine Art Gallery is free and open to the public. We are located at 3201 Allen Pkwy Suite 180, Houston, TX 77019 (Enter on Rosine Street).

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm.

For more information, please contact trish@elliofineart.com / [281.660.1832](tel:281.660.1832)